



TESTIMONY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

H.B. 5499 AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATIONS RELATING TO HOSPICE CARE

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Senator Gerratana, representative Ritter and members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Tina Bernacki and I am Director of Visiting Nurse Services of Ct Inc Hospice At Home Program. I am also a member of the Connecticut Association for Home Care and Hospice. I am a Registered Nurse with thirty years of hospice home care experience.

I am writing to testify in support of H.B. 5499 AN ACT CONCERNING REGULATIONS RELATING TO HOSPICE CARE with proposed revisions favored by CAHCH, our state organization, and Board of Directors.

VNS of Connecticut Hospice at Home program provides hospice services to residents in Fairfield, New Haven and Litchfield Counties. Hospice families will be better served with more options for care should they require services in a facility/residence. If home is not possible then closer to home is best. The support and presence of family and loved ones are readily available and what patients and their families need at the end of life is the familiarity of community, be it physical, emotional or spiritual.

Please support the updated regulations that will ensure increased access to care for all state resident when facing end of life decisions.

Thank you for your patience in considering this testimony.

Tina M Bernacki RN MS CHPN

Hospice Director

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